

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-21, 27, and 29 are amended. The remaining claims are unchanged.

The claim amendments are supported by the application as originally filed, for instance, on pages 6-8, paragraphs [0024]-[0028]. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for reciting "instructions to" Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to remove the language at issue and define the respective inventions in terms of code executable by a processor to perform a computer-implemented method. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2002/0019848, Sugawara et al. (hereinafter Sugawara). Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 3, by way of example, defines a method of operating a message exchange network, where an event is detected, and an alert message is generated in response to detecting the event. Claim 3 has been amended to recite the features of:

providing a plurality of event categories, each event category of said plurality of event categories being associated with a different one of a plurality of stages of messaging between a message sender and a message recipient, said stages of said messaging including posting of a message, routing of a message, delivery of a message, and response to a delivered message;

coordinating a message generated by a message sender with a message recipient;

detecting an event associated with said message;

coordinating said event with a first one of said plurality of event categories, said first event category associated with an identified one of said stages of said messaging;

generating an alert message in response to detecting said event, said alert message indicating said event and said first event category; and

transmitting said alert message to said message recipient.

(Emphasis added).

Sugawara fails to disclose or suggest several of the above-recited features of claim 3.

First, Sugawara describes the notion of a delivery status notification, such as "displayed," "dispatched," or "processed." (Paragraph [0111]). However, Sugawara fails to describe such notifications in terms of event categories. There is nothing in Sugawara that discloses or suggests providing event categories. Thus, to the extent that Sugawara's notifications serve as "events," Sugawara fails to teach any operation related to the claimed feature of "coordinating said event with a first one of said plurality of event categories," as recited in claim 3.

Second, Sugawara fails to disclose or suggest the claimed feature of "each event category of said plurality of event categories being associated with a different one of a plurality of stages of messaging between a message sender and a message recipient, said stages of said messaging including posting of a message, routing of a message, delivery of a message, and response to a delivered message," as recited in claim 3. There is no teaching in Sugawara regarding the association of event categories with different stages of messaging. The status notifications described in Paragraphs [0111], [0127]-[0130], and [0208], may relate to routing of a message or delivery of a message, but Sugawara fails to teach the association of event categories with such different stages of messaging. Also, Sugawara fails to disclose or suggest associating event categories with stages of messaging such as "posting of a message," and "response to a delivered message," as recited in claim 3.

Because Sugawara fails to teach event categories and association with different stages of messaging, as explained above, Sugawara fails to disclose or suggest additional features of claim 3, such as "said first event category associated with an identified one of said stages of said messaging," and "generating an alert message in response to detecting said event, said alert message indicating said event and said first event category."

Therefore, Sugawara cannot be said to anticipate the invention defined in claim 3, because Sugawara fails to disclose or suggest one or more features of claim 3, as explained above. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

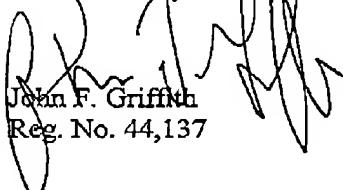
Claims 1, 2, and 27 have been amended to recite similar features as claim 3. Therefore, the rejections of these claims should be withdrawn for similar reasons as above.

The various dependent claims incorporate all of the features of the independent claims on which they are based and, therefore, are not anticipated for at least the reasons discussed above. Thus, the rejections of the dependent claims should also be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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